



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2021 by Mike Sawyer (Banstead Royal British Legion)



We were able to hold our Remembrance Parade along the full length of the High Street again and were accompanied by many hundreds of groups and individuals.

We were grateful for the support of so many, including our MP

Crispin Blunt, and about 30 wreaths were laid at our war memorial. We also managed to install our new memorial bench (jointly funded by the Council and our Branch) just a few days before the Parade.

The Poppy Appeal was again a success with so far over £40,000 collected – thank you all for your support, which comes from all over our area north of the M25. And thanks to all those who helped remind us of the Appeal by putting up so many lamppost poppies along the A217 and more locally.

One other facet that must be emphasised has been the significant enthusiasm of our local infants and junior schools for the Poppy appeal. The four schools together raised about £1,000 – extraordinary!

In late September, we were delighted to receive two Mayor's Volunteer Awards at a ceremony rewarding the efforts of a huge range of volunteers and groups throughout the Borough.



Later this year, we look forward to having a significant role in the Banstead Village May Queen Parade – if it is possible to hold the event.

Editors note - please see our website for more details as they emerge.



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR by David Talbot

Welcome to our winter newsheet. It's good to see some of our main village events (Remembrance Parade and the Christmas Event) getting back to something like normality after last year's restrictions. Please see the reports on the front page and centre page. I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and New Year break, and I wish you all a, slightly belated, happy and prosperous New Year.

We are going through a bit of a reorganisation due to the sad loss of David Gradidge - see my report on following page. Please bear with us when we get things wrong and please let us know when we make mistakes. My thanks to everyone on the committee, all our contributors and our unsung heroes - our road stewards who deliver our newsheet to our members.

We are also looking out for new members on our committee and would welcome anyone who would like to help us support our lovely village. We have introduced a new ad-hoc position for people who have an interest in our village but who don't want to become full members of our committee. Please get in touch if this would interest you.

We aim to represent the whole village, but of course, it's much easier if you are a member. For more details please check out our website (www.banstead-bvra.org) and our newsheet - if you are not already a member of our organisation please join us (subscription just £3.00 per year). Our email address is on the front page and we would love to hear from you.



WINTER WORK PROGRAMME ON BANSTEAD DOWNS by Lucy Shea (Conservators)

Banstead Downs was given the special SSSI – Site of Special Scientific Interest – conservation status in 1955 due to the unique flora and fauna that can be found on the site. The mosaic of habitats are sensitively managed and important to support the rich biodiversity found on the site.

Calcareous (chalk and limestone) grasslands are some of our richest grasslands for plant and invertebrate species and the grassland areas on Banstead Downs are no exception. They are a rare habitat across the UK with less than c. 40,000 hectares remaining. Centuries of grazing have resulted in nutrient-poor soils that do not support arable farming, resulting in a largely man-made habitat that has to be maintained, either mechanically or by grazing livestock.

Natural England provides Banstead Commons Conservators with a Higher Level Stewardship Grant to help contribute to the maintenance cost of managing the grassland areas and scrub on Banstead Downs. In 2021 we managed the grassland mechanically, we plan to reintroduce livestock to the pens again this year. Clearance work will continue this winter to support a succession of scrub habitats that provide niche environments for many different species to survive and reproduce.

Thanks to dedicated residents, we are fortunate to have biological records for the various butterfly and bird species found on Banstead Downs. If you'd like to learn more about wildlife monitoring on Banstead Commons, please contact us - bansteadcommons@aol.com

As urban sprawl continues at an alarming rate, it is vital that the Conservators continue to protect and preserve Banstead Commons to help create resilient landscapes for our native wildlife to thrive and people to enjoy. You can follow Banstead Commons on Facebook and Twitter @BCConservators.



Musk Thistle on Banstead Downs by John Peacock

PLANNING MATTERS by Catalina Vassallo-Bonner

There is not a great deal to report for this latest newssheet. There is always a small continuous trickle of planning applications, some more complicated than others. The appeal against a council refusal at Arlington Stables, Woodmansterne Lane is still in the hands of the Planning Inspectors and has been joined by an appeal against the refusal of the Oak Tree Farm, Croydon Lane, development. No decision has as yet been reached with regard to the Wellesford Close site. An application has been received from the Banstead Corner Rest Home to build a new, two storey 16 bedroom extension behind the double gates that lead onto Bolters lane. It would appear that the relevant parcel of land lost its Urban Open Space designation at the time that the Development Management Policies were approved in 2019.

The application by Cornerstone on behalf of Telefonica (O₂) for the erection of a 20m mast and cabinets in the Central car park has been refused by the council. We felt it was the most suitable place so far but the Conservation Officer has concerns regarding its proximity to All Saints Church, a Grade 2 listed building. That makes three applications, on or near the High Street, refused in as many years. The government wants to roll out 1,000,000 masts nationwide within a short time frame and Reigate & Banstead will have to bear its share of these new 5G masts. A figure of 3000 for R&B has been quoted but that is not written in stone.

These new masts are generally 18-20m tall and have up to six accompanying cabinets, all which take up space. They are classed as 'permitted development' and, unlike normal planning applications where the council decides if an application is or is not permitted, the council has to **prove** the application is not sound within 56 days of arrival on the council planning computer. According to Policy DES1, NHE1 and INF3 of the RBBC Development Management Policies (2019) new telecoms equipment apparatus (including masts), must be sited and designed sympathetically to minimise the impacts on the visual amenity, character and appearance of the surrounding area, coloured and finished appropriately with provision of screening where necessary and reinforce local distinctiveness. They should respect the characteristics of the local neighbourhood and visual appearance of the immediate street-scene, have due regard to the layout, building siting, scale, massing, height and roofscapes of the surrounding area. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says new equipment should be sympathetically designed and camouflaged where appropriate. We await the next application.

DAVID GRADIDGE by David Talbot

Very sad news - David passed away in early December. David first joined our committee in 1998 and became our Treasurer in 2004. He took on the role of Membership Secretary looking after all of our road stewards, a role which must have taken up a considerable amount of his time. He had a keen interest in our village infrastructure (regular readers will remember David's crusade on our village's 10 worst roads) and in wildlife (David established our Local Wildlife Field in Bolters Lane) and I'm sure you will have seen his many articles in our newssheets.

He also had a keen interest in local government and had written a number of articles on local government reorganisation. Finally, his wry sense of humour always shone through his articles - his was the one witty article that everyone remembers. We all owe David an enormous debt. His contributions to our village and our Association will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences to his wife, Anne and their family.



The BVRA Newssheet is supported by;

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ONE OF BANSTEAD'S BEST KEPT SECRETS by Marion Hayns (Banstead Village in Bloom)

There is a very popular bowls club hiding behind these trees!

I am delighted to say that the Banstead Neville Bowling Club is joining forces with us in our bid to see a total refurbishment of the Recreation Park for which we have fought so hard over the last couple of years. They have made extensive improvements to their grounds and wish to be seen to be much more part of the entire park, by overseeing the removal of all the overgrown saplings and ivy that has sprung up outside their perimeter fencing over the last 20 years – just as in Sleeping Beauty! Their security will be assured by the very high fencing topped with barbed wire which surrounds them.



Thank you so much to all those who kindly uploaded their comments (over 200 of you) on to the SCC Tile affixed to our application from the SCC Communities Fund for £35,500 towards new play equipment for our neglected park. All but one of these comments was not only in total support of our application but overwhelmingly critical of the lack of funding and the piecemeal approach that has characterised all activity that has occurred there over the last several years – this potentially beautiful green space in the heart of our Village.

Our application for funding is now being processed and as a result of all the negative publicity generated, I am hopeful that we shall begin to see some activity at last, beginning in early 2022, so that all residents of Banstead, both young and old will have a park to be proud of, with increased paths and seating and play areas for both the very young and children up to the age of 12.

BANSTEAD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT UPDATE by James Crouch (Plateau)

After a delayed start due to Coronavirus restrictions, the local archaeology group's project to explore the development of Banstead from prehistoric until modern times got underway in August. Despite a shortened digging season, we were able to dig small test pits (50cm x 50cm) at six houses around the village, finding evidence for activity in the prehistoric, medieval and modern periods. The more of these mini-digs (each taking just one day) that we can do, the more complete a picture of Banstead's history will emerge.

We already have several households booked in for this year but have room for more so if you would like to help us tell the story behind our village, please call James (01737 361541) or email james.crouch@btconnect.com.



1,000-year-old pottery from Court Road.

BLOOMING JUNE by Kerry Garner (Banstead Village in Bloom)

11th June 2022 is going to be a special day for those of you who enjoy plants, flowers and gardening. It's the Flower Club's 65th anniversary flower show at the Community Hall. There will be an open gardens trail organised by Banstead Village in Bloom and a best front garden competition judged by Banstead Horticultural Society. The flower show will judge many classes of floral display and the show is open to anyone who wants to enter. Open to the public to view from 1pm to 5pm on the day. Contact sarahmewett@hotmail.com for information.

The open gardens trail will take place over the weekend, several local gardens will be opened to the public, a trail map will be on sale. The trail will also include, notable graves in All Saints churchyard, planting areas in the High Street and best front garden competitors. If you would like to show your garden please contact kerry.garner@outlook.com. Any resident who would like to take part in the best front garden competition please contact diana.beck@tiscali.co.uk.

CHRISTMAS EVENT by Councillor Nadean Moses (event organiser)

2019 saw thousands of people flock to Banstead High Street for the annual Banstead Christmas Community Event. So much effort is put into the event supported by businesses, groups, charities and volunteers so it's been of great sadness that we had to cancel in 2020.

2021 however we were back! There was an official poster competition at Banstead library with fantastic artwork displayed online and in the library. There was also the 'Best



Christmas Shop Front' window competition and several local businesses made a real effort with hand-made snowflakes, a snow machine and even a real-life Father Christmas sitting in the window. The event was opened by the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead, Jill Bray, who visited businesses on the High Street.

Back to the stage, and by popular demand in the Orchard, we had West End Stage Stars and The Show Choir. There were also appearances from the Cricket Club, R&B Surrey Police and First Class Learning. On the High Street, at Edibles, there was a children's colouring competition and elsewhere, singers Kiara Sings and Ray Lowe were heard singing some Christmas classics. Jebb the Jester, DJ Bill and Theo the Magician were seen up and down the High Street along with Storm Troopers, Redhill Corps of Drums and Lenny the Lion at St Raphael's, next door to Charlie Brown hair salon, who gave out fabulous goody bags.

From the top of the High Street at The Natural Way (celebrating their 10 year anniversary) down to Christ Church with free hot chocolate and popcorn there was fun to be had for all the family. These included special offers, tastings, prizes, goody bags, raffles and tombolas. With so many fantastic shops and family-run businesses, I am sure you would have found some amazing gifts up

and down the High Street - from Banstead Vintners with Mr Hayman himself, with the citrus Gin, Art Of Living for that perfect gift for that cook or chef, Fluke for that designer outfit, Mr Snob to have ensured your dancing shoes were in tip-top condition and Ora Hair for a new hair colour. Plus many, many more shops for you to have explored.



Not forgetting there was a visit from the main man himself, Father Christmas, with helpers from The Banstead Rotary.

Thank you to all the businesses that support the Christmas Event and the Banstead lights collection - the event wouldn't happen without you.

Also, many thanks for the support and donations raising funds for Banstead Rotary, The Royal British Legion and Age Concern Banstead and the many charity shops on the High Street.

Make sure your little ones take part in this year's Banstead Christmas Poster Competition - the winning design will be the

official poster of the event. The 'Best Christmas Shop Front' competition will also go ahead again.

Plus New for 2022 'Best Christmas Staff Outfit Competition', win yourself an awesome prize.

Banstead Business Guild www.facebook.com/BansteadChristmasCommunityEvent

THE PROBUS CLUB OF BANSTEAD by Jeff Young (Probus)

50th Anniversary Community Bench at the Banstead War Memorial

In the days immediately before the 2021 Remembrance Sunday service, The Probus Club of Banstead installed a bench at the Banstead War Memorial, for the benefit of the community in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of their founding in 1969. The plans for the installation of the bench were, like many things, disrupted by Covid-19 but it is now in place as the War Memorial celebrates its centenary year. Installed by members of the Club, the bench provides a welcome addition to the facilities at the War Memorial, complimenting the bench recently installed by the Royal British Legion. The Probus Club of Banstead hopes that the bench will be enjoyed by members of the Banstead community for many years.



Founded in 1969, and one of the first Probus clubs to be established, The Banstead Probus Club continues to be very active with 70 members and a range of social events. If you are interested in joining Probus please contact the club at probus.banstead@gmail.com.

BANSTEAD FLOWER CLUB by Vicki Hollands (Banstead Flower Club)

REFLECTING ON THE PAST – LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

2020/21 has been challenging for many of us and Banstead Flower Club like so many other clubs, found ways of staying connected with its members, through emails, and demonstrations via Zoom meetings. Finally in June 2021, we were pleased to 'open our doors' and welcome our members back. In contrast, 2022 is set to be an exciting and busy year for the Flower Club, as we proudly look forward to celebrating our 'Diamond Sapphire Anniversary'. Over the past 65 Years the club has had, and still has, many talented and enthusiastic members who have made us proud with their beautiful floral exhibits at local and national competitions. Several awards have been brought home to Banstead, amongst them a Chelsea Gold Medal, First and Best in Show at Hampton Court Flower Show, a First at the Wafa 2020 show in India and more recently a Second and 'Best Use of Colour' at RHS Wisley in September 2021.

Members of the Flower Club are currently planning a Flower Show to be held in Banstead Community Hall in June in participation with Banstead Village in Bloom and a Flower Festival to be held in All Saints Church, later in the year. In addition are our monthly meetings, with guest demonstrators, in-house competitions, raffle, floral sundries sales table and refreshments. Further details of our Flower Show and Flower Festival will be available nearer the time. In the meantime, if you would like to join us for an interesting and entertaining afternoon, we would love to welcome you.

Our meetings are held in Banstead Community Hall, Park Road SM7 3AJ, On the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm – doors open 1.30pm New members and visitors always welcome. Please note our first open meeting in 2022 will be on Wednesday 23rd February.

For further details or enquires see our page at <http://www.surreynafas.org.uk/banstead-flower-club> email bansteadflowerclub@hotmail.co.uk or contact Vicki Hollands 07845 250308



INFRASTRUCTURE WORK IN PROGRESS OR RECENTLY COMPLETED

An update on some of the things that are in progress or that have been recently delivered.

Bolters Lane / Garratts Lane / Holly Lane / Court Road

Safety changes for the children at St Anne's school - including speed humps and raising the level of the roundabout, with road restriction (build out), speed hump and parking restrictions opposite Marlborough Mews for Court Road - planned for early 2022. Public consultation underway - please see our website for further details.

High Street:

Timber rail installed to prevent parking on grass outside Papa John's.

Changes for Tesco lorry parking. Public consultation underway - please see our website for further details.

Salisbury Road:

Resurfacing (from Buff Avenue to Winkworth Road)

Winkworth Road:

Resurfacing and drainage changes completed November / December - see report below.

Woodmansterne Lane:

Introduction of speeding restrictions.

WINKWORTH ROAD REPAIRS by Brian Ransom

SCC Highways contractors finally delivered the work to repair the bumpy joints and noise-generating dips in the road surface starting and finishing on their stated timeline. So it was rather unfortunate that the emergency drainage works to prevent flooding in Winkworth Road then started!

Although it was a three week inconvenience for most road users, and there has been social media comment that it's no better than before, it really has improved the road surface and reduced the noise nuisance suffered by the residents of Winkworth Road. Hopefully, the repairs will last for a good number of years. Personally, I'm rather pessimistic that the asphalt slurry used to resurface the joints will just soften on a hot summer's day, then get squeezed up and out by the heavy traffic the road carries. Let's hope I'm wrong. Our thanks to resident Cate Searle for raising the petition and to Councillor Luke Bennett for his support and to Surrey County Council for completing this significant piece of work.

2021 WOODLAND ROUNDUP by Brian Ransom

Another year with lockdowns meant that we could not be in the woodland for the first three months of the year but as soon as we could, we were back. Thanks again to all the volunteers who turned out in all sorts of weather, also many thanks to Rosie, one of our founder members, who very kindly provided us with a delicious cake on two occasions! Thank you, Rosie.

We worked all around the site - completing general maintenance, keeping the paths accessible, keeping the gully clear, repairing the steps, and clearing hundreds if not thousands of small sycamore trees! In May we saw that blue tits were rearing a family in one of the nest boxes, the first time that we have seen any of the boxes being occupied. The two open-fronted nest boxes were moved as they had become too exposed.

The sensory beds in the Banstead Wildlife Field are looking wonderful, they are kept tidy and watered by volunteers who live very locally, using water kindly provided by Banstead Downs Lawn Tennis Club who are just over the road, saving people carrying water for long distances. Let's hope for better news in 2022 with no lockdowns so that we can continue with the same schedule, the second Saturday of the month and the third Monday, exact dates to be confirmed.



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

BVRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Talbot - Chairman

Martin Matt - Secretary (interim)

Catalina Vassallo-Bonner – Planning

Cliff Glanfield - Data Records Manager

**Barbara Birch, Ben Martin, Brian Ransom,
Melanie Ramsay and Richard Heath.**

Group email: Banstead-BVRA@outlook.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Luke Bennett – Surrey County Councillor

email: luke.bennett@surreycc.gov.uk

Nadean Moses - Borough Councillor

email: Cllr.Moses@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Eddy Humphreys – Borough Councillor

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Sam Walsh – Borough Councillor

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STOP PRESS - BANSTEAD RAILWAY STATION by Gerald Bridge (co-opted retired member)

As some of you would have noticed, last March the timber / glazed frontage to the single-storey building attached to the station, suffered impact damage. I am pleased to report that at long last repair works have been completed, however, the finish of the black staining leaves much to be desired. A request has been made to Southern Railway to address the matter and provide an acceptable finish.

FUTURE EVENTS

BANSTEAD ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY - The Winter Programme by Jeff Young (BAFS)

Banstead Arts Festival Society (BAFS) continues the autumn / winter season with concerts in February and March 2022. This follows on the success of the October and November concerts.

12th February - Violinist Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux plays a programme including major works by Mozart and Brahms - a rising star, she has recently been brought under the wing of the exclusive Young Concert Artists Trust.

19th March - Timothy Ridout, another BBC New Generation Artist - hailed as the outstanding violist of his generation - will introduce some of the unsung glories of the viola repertoire.

Appropriate social distancing measures will be continued in the Community Hall and ticket sales will be controlled to ensure no overcrowding.

For booking information please see website <http://www.bansteadarts.co.uk>

OTHER EVENTS:

A selection of upcoming events - for more details please see our website (address on front cover).

16th February - BHS Coffee morning with Peter Wakeham (Downlands Trust) - United Reform Church

26th March - St Cecilia Choir - Spring Concert - Christchurch, Sutton

9th April - BHS Spring Show - Community Hall

25-28th May - BANOS (Banstead and Nork Operatic Society)- Kinky Boots - Epsom Playhouse